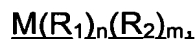


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A ferromagnetic powder composition comprising soft magnetic iron-based core particles wherein the surface of the core particles are surrounded by an insulating inorganic coating, and a lubricating amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of silanes, titanates, aluminates, zirconates, or mixtures thereof, having the following general formula:



wherein M is a central atom selected from Si, Ti, Al, or Zr,

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrolysable group,

R<sub>2</sub> is a group consisting of a lubricating organic moiety, wherein the sum of m+n is the coordination number of the central atom;

n is an integer  $\geq 1$  and

m is an integer  $\geq 1$ .

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the compound is present as a lubricating layer on the insulated particles.

Claim 4. (Canceled).

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is an alkoxy group having less than 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a chelate group.

Claim 7. (Original) A composition according to claim 6, wherein the chelate group is a residue of hydroxyacetic acid (-O(O=C)-CH<sub>2</sub>O-) or a residue of ethylene glycol (-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is an organic group including between 6-30, and optionally including one or more hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P.

Claim 9. (Original) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the R<sub>2</sub> group is linear, branched, cyclic, or aromatic.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the R<sub>2</sub> group is a chain selected from the group consisting of alkyl, ether, ester, phospho-alkyl, phospho-lipid, or phospho-amine.

Claim 11. (Original) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of phosphato, pyrophosphato or phosphito.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of alkyl-alkoxy silanes and polyether-alkoxy silanes.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of octyl-trimethoxy silane, hexadecyl-trimethoxy silane, polyethyleneether-trimethoxy silane, isopropyl-triisostearyl titanate, isopropyl-tri(dioctyl)phosphato titanate, neopentyl(diallyl)oxy-trineodecanoyl zirconate, neopentyl(diallyl)oxy-tri(dioctyl)phosphato zirconate, and diisobutylacetoacetyl aluminate.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the insulating inorganic coating of the iron-based particles is phosphorous based.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the iron-based core particles consist of essentially pure iron.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein less than 5% of the iron-based core particles have a size below 45  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein at least 40% of the iron-based core particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 106  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A powder composition according to claim 1, wherein at least 20% of the iron-based core particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 212  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound is present in an amount of 0.05-0.5% by weight.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, which is mixed with additives, such as particular lubricants, binders or flow-enhancing agents.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) Process for the preparation of soft magnetic composite materials having a density of at least 7.45 g/cm<sup>3</sup> comprising the steps of

- providing an iron or iron-based powder composition ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising soft magnetic iron-based core particles wherein the surfaces of the core particles are surrounded by an insulating inorganic coating, and a lubricating amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of silanes, titanates, aluminates, zirconates, or mixtures thereof;

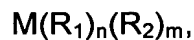
- uniaxially compacting the obtained soft magnetic powder composition in a die at a compaction pressure of at least about 800 MPa; and
- ejecting the green body from the compaction tool; and
- optionally heat-treating the compacted body.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 21, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least about 900 MPa.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 21, wherein the particle size of the iron core powder is ~~as defined in claim 16~~ such that less than 5% of the iron-based core particles have a size below 45  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 24. (Canceled).

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition~~ process according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 21, wherein the compound has the following general formula:



wherein M is a central atom selected from Si, Ti, Al, or Zr,

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrolysable group,

R<sub>2</sub> is a group consisting of a lubricating organic moiety, wherein the sum of m+n is the coordination number of the central atom;

n is an integer  $\geq 1$  and

m is an integer  $\geq 1$ .

Claim 26. (Canceled).

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition~~ process according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 25, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is an organic group including between 10-25 carbon atoms and optionally including one or more hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the R<sub>2</sub> group is a chain selected from the group consisting of alkyl, ether, ester, phospho-alkyl, phospho-lipid, or phospho-amine.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein at least 60% of the iron-based ore particles consist of particles having a particle size of about 106  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein at least 40% of the iron-based particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 212  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein at least 60% of the iron-based particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 212  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound is present in an amount of 0.07-0.45% by weight.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound is present in an amount of 0.08-0.4% by weight.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 21, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least about 1000 MPa.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 21, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least about 1100 MPa.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 22, wherein the particle size of the iron core powder is ~~as defined in claim 16~~ such that less than 5% of the iron-based core particles have a size below 45  $\mu$ m.